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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,161	11/19/2001	Ko Kambayashi	122.1274C	8262

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/988,161

Applicant(s)

KAMBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 9-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 9-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herron et al. (5,030,128) in view of Ichikawa et al. (5,647,758).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 14 and 17, Herron et al., figures 3, 5 and 32-34, disclose a docking module (18 which read on a detachable connector unit) for an electronic apparatus (12) comprising:

- a metallic casing (283 which read on a housing) having front and rear surfaces and a height no greater than a thickness of the electronic apparatus,
- a plurality of first connectors (figure 33) accessible at the rear surface of the housing and detachably to respective peripheral unit,
- a second connector (figure 32) mounted on the front surface of the housing and detachable connectable to a third connector (figure 5) mounted on a rear surface of the electronic apparatus. The second connector aligned with the third connector and moving the housing in a direction toward the rear surface of the electronic housing.

Herron et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for a pair of fasteners incorporated in the connector unit with the first connectors arranged

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therebetween, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the housing to the electronic apparatus.

Ichikawa et al., figure 1, disclose an electrical connector assembly includes interengaging plug (1) and receptacle (2) connector components engagement screws has an engagement pins (6) which read on a pair of fasteners incorporated in the connector unit with the first connectors arranged therebetween, operable independently of each other to detachably fix the housing to the electronic apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herron et al. to have the screws as taught by Ichikawa et al., in order to have the exact alignment and have more security, better connection of the plug and receptacle connectors.

Regarding claims 2, 4, 13 and 15, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. disclose the fastener unit comprises a threaded shaft (13) for connecting the housing to the electronic apparatus. The threaded shaft projecting outwardly from a frontal surface of the detachable connector unit.

Regarding claims 5 and 16, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. disclose each the fastener further comprises a fastener housing connected to the connector unit. The fastener housing having an interior and a coil spring (10) within the interior urging the threaded shaft outwardly from the frontal surface of the detachable connector unit.

Regarding claims 9 and 18, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. disclose each the fastening shaft has a screw thread on at least a first portion projecting from the front surface of the housing and an integral second portion extending into the fastener unit.

The fastening unit receives the second portion of the fastening shaft, resiliently biasing same to normally project from the front surface of the housing and to be retracted within a limited extent of axial movement of the fastening shaft.

Regarding claims 10 and 19, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. disclose the fastening shaft has an engagement pin collar (8 which read on an enlarged disk) disposed thereon. The enlarged disk has a diameter greater than the diameter of the shaft and disposed to render an accurate portion of the disk accessible through an opening in an end wall of the housing for manual rotation by an operator.

Regarding claims 11 and 20, it is noted that Ichikawa et al. discloses each mating fastener is a mating, female threaded unit (16) receiving the threaded end of the fastening shaft.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7 and 9-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.
January 24, 2003



LYNN FIELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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